

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 10 are pending in the application. Applicant cancels claims 1, 4 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends claims 2 and 3. No new matter is added.

OBJECTED CLAIMS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that 4 and 6 – 9 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims 2 and 3, but that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations from its associated base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5 and 10 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claim 3 and under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indicated below, but that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations from its associated base claim and any intervening claims and amended to overcome the rejections under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicant cancels claim 4 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends independent claim 2 to include the limitations of dependent claim 4, and amends independent claim 3 to include the limitations of dependent claim 5. Applicant also amends claims 2 and 3 to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indicated below. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 2 and 3 are allowable. As dependent claims 6 and 9 depend from allowable claim 2 and dependent claims 7, 8

and 10 depend from allowable claim 3, Applicant submits that claims 6 – 10 are allowable for at least this reason.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection as to claims 4 – 10 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 - 10 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner suggests that claims 1 and 2 are vague, and that the preambles of claims 1 – 3 are misdescriptive. Applicant cancels claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, and thanks the Examiner for suggested amendments to claims 2 and 3. Applicant amends claims 2 and 3 to include the Examiner's recommended amendments. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claims 2 and 3 are definite and allowable, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 – 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,964,112 to Appelmann..

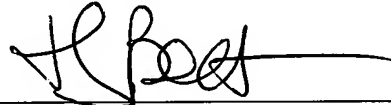
Applicant cancels claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends independent claims 2 and 3 as indicated above to respectively include the limitations of canceled claims 4 and 5 and address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. For the reasons indicated above, Applicant submits that amended claims 2 and 3 are allowable, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 2, 3 and 6 - 10, consisting of independent claims 2 and 3, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Bean', is written over a horizontal line.

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